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Regional Transit Planning Update

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Elements of the Draft Plan

Expanded bus service



Light Rail Transit (LRT)



Express Rail

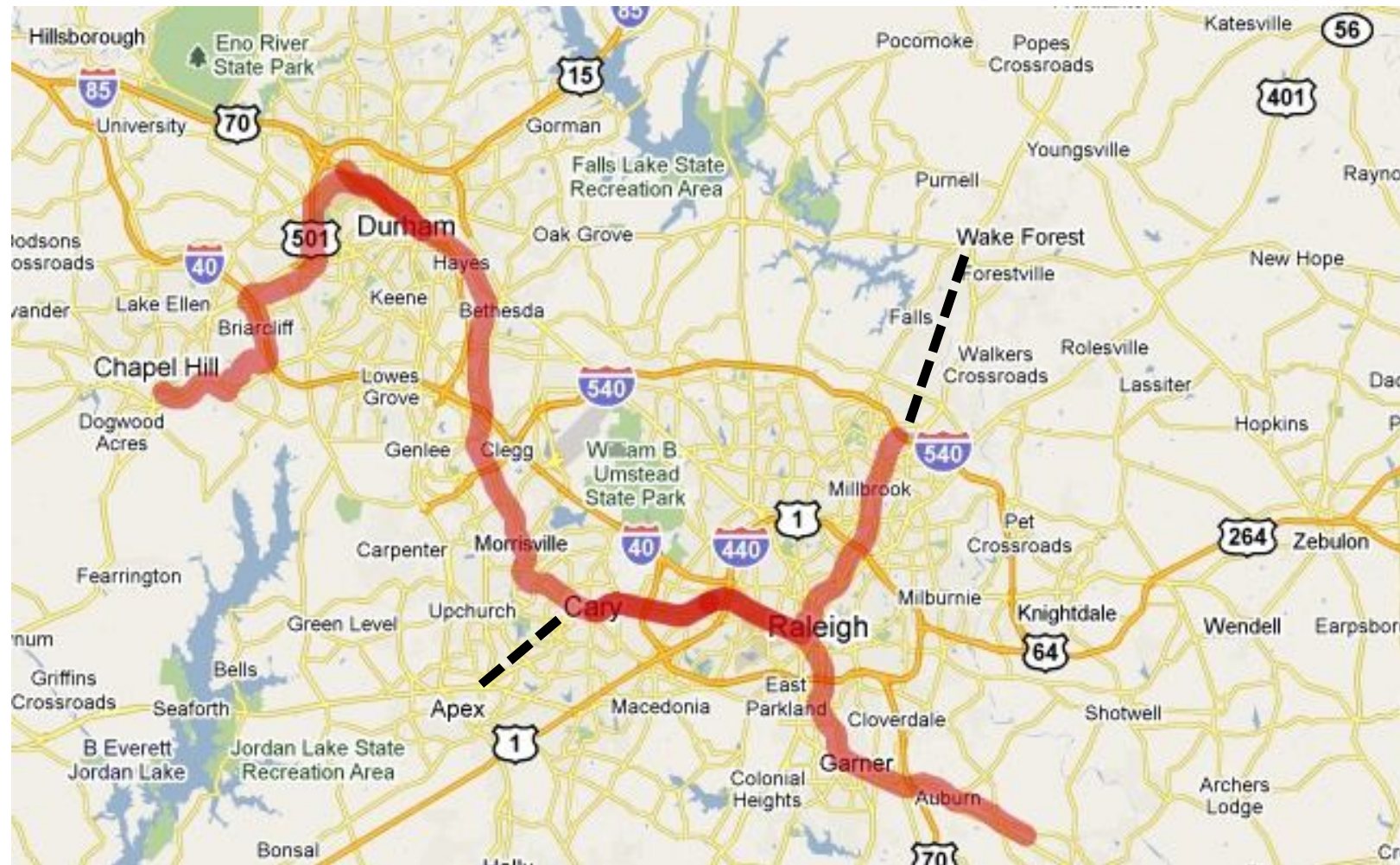
- Amtrak
- High Speed Rail
- Commuter



Regional Bus Expansion



Draft Regional Transit Vision



Draft Regional Plan Summary



- ▶ 113 new buses (282,500 bus hours), with 65% in first two years



- ▶ 41 miles of new Commuter Rail service



- ▶ 42 miles of new Light Rail service

All plans are solvent, but have debt service requirements that must be met

Maximizing Light Rail & Express Rail

- ▶ Light rail links neighborhoods for intra-city travel, short trips
- ▶ Express Rail links commuters with job centers, pulling two sides of region closer together

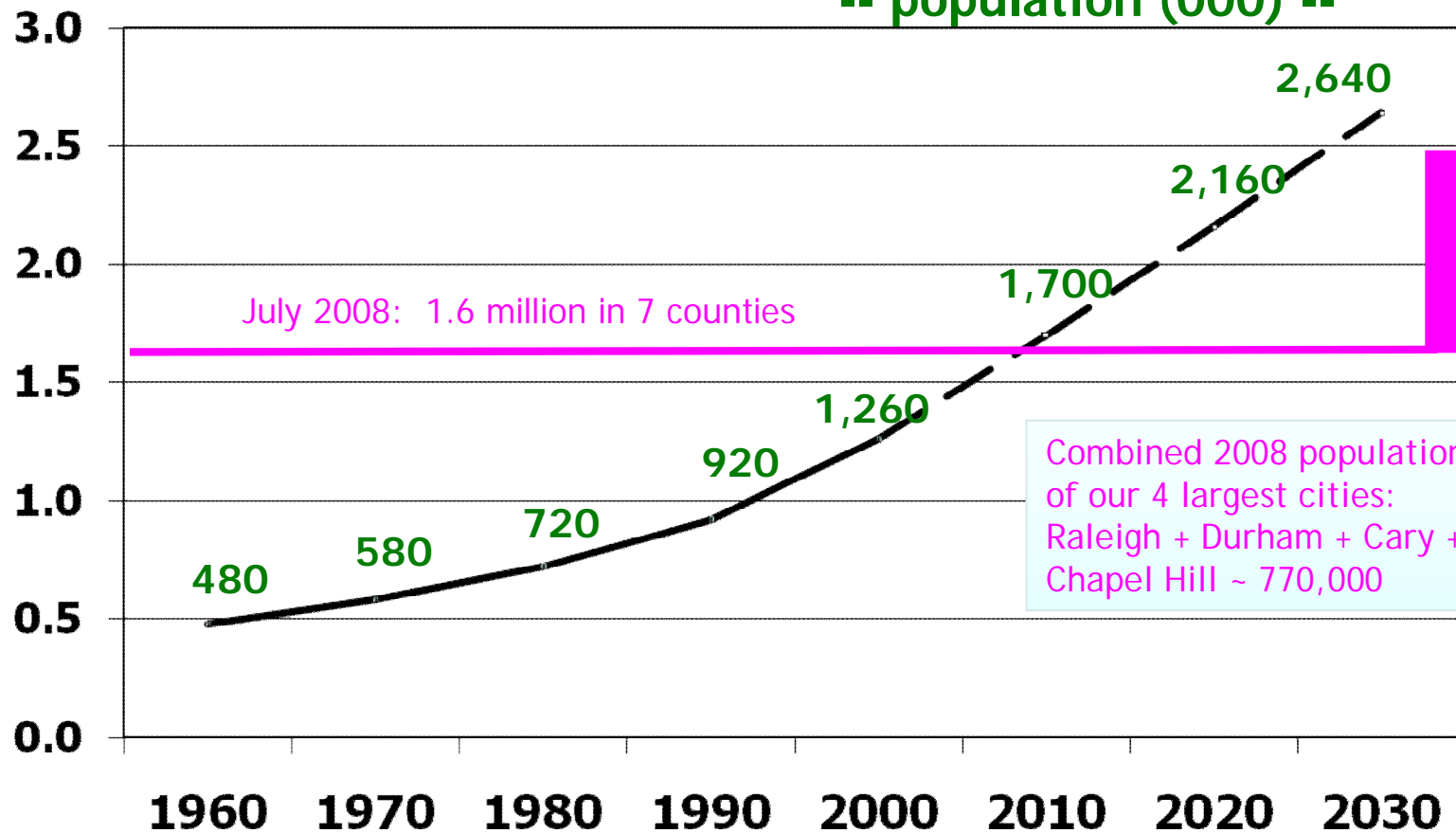


Challenge: creating a mobility infrastructure to match our rapidly-growing state

- ▶ Each of the “Big 3” will add another half million or more people by the 2030s, Charlotte and the Triangle will be >2.5 million people; 12 of the 13 regions with 2 to 3 million people today have rail systems
- ▶ 230,000 households in North Carolina have no car available, and this number has increased in each of the past 4 years
- ▶ By 2030, almost 18% of North Carolina residents will be 65 or older, up from 12% in 2000
- ▶ Increasing shares of households are made up of single-person and two-person households without children
- ▶ 20-30% of households would prefer to live in a compact, walkable neighborhood with a mix of activities

Triangle Growth

-- population (000) --



data are for TJCOG region

Land Use - Community Infrastructure- Development (LUCID)

- ▶ US DOT, Housing and Urban Development, and EPA formed new partnership
- ▶ Triangle J Council of Governments and Triangle Transit
- ▶ Coordinate development plans around the transit stations planned within the 51 miles of the proposed regional rail system.

**Our future growth will be defined by the
intersection of our public policy and market
demand**

“Help me...help you!”

Jerry McGuire

Potential Legislative Initiatives

- Make funding the 21st Century Transportation Fund a top priority
- Increase the percentage of NCDOT overall funding which goes to Public Transportation

Examine State Government Employee Parking Policy



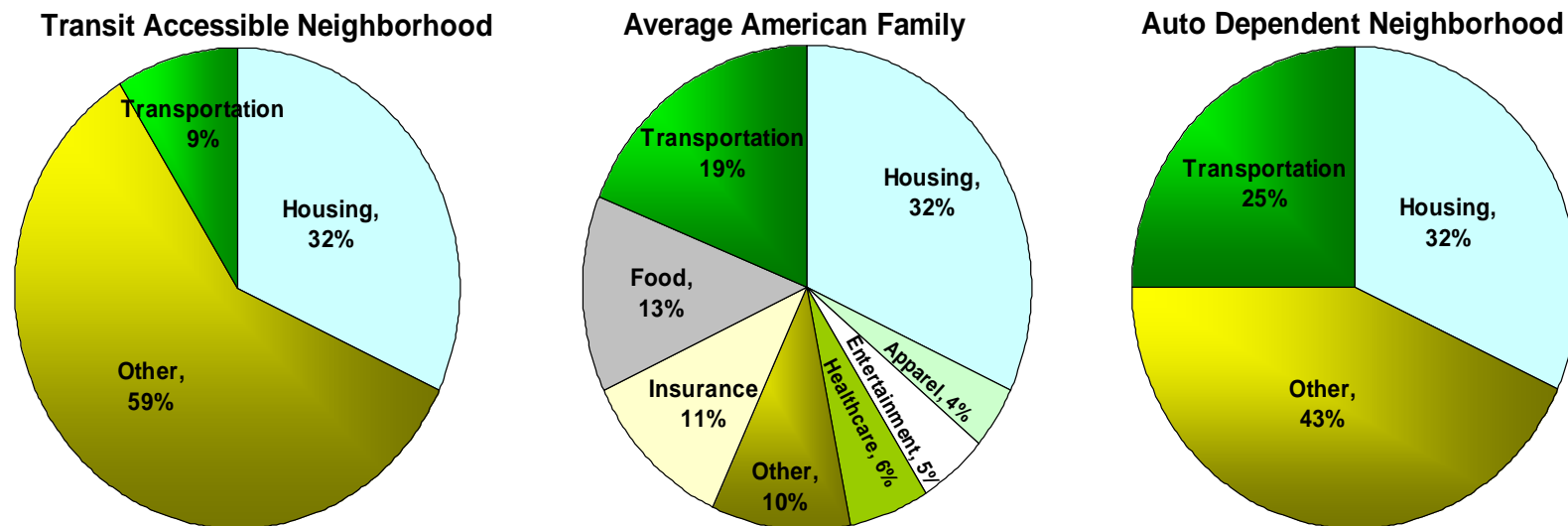
- ▶ Equalize subsidy for automobile parking and transit use
- ▶ Oversubscribe state employee parking
- ▶ Understand the tradeoffs between the high cost of structured parking (decks) and other strategies

In addition to transit...

- ▶ Affordable Housing is a key issue...
 - ▶ Low income workers are having to drive longer distances to find jobs
 - ▶ Transportation is the second biggest expense of family budget
 - ▶ The Intermodal bill requires analysis and planning for affordable housing. Perhaps the same requirement should exist for water, sewer, and road projects.

Impact of Transit Oriented Development

% of Income



Source: Center for TOD Housing + Transportation Affordability Index, 2004 Bureau of Labor Statistics



A ½ cent sales tax will fund much improved transit services throughout the Region. The result will be transit accessible neighborhoods where transportation costs are significantly less than in auto dependent neighborhoods.

Rethinking State Facilities



- ▶ NC Central Prison
- ▶ Dix Hospital
- ▶ Blue Ridge Road Area
- ▶ NC DOT Equipment Depot-State Fairgrounds

Questions?

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